

Application No. 10/669,285
Amendment dated December 28, 2005
Reply to Final Office Action of October 4, 2005

Docket No. 1232-5165

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1-4 and 7-12 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 10 are independent.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-8 (CANCELLED):

9 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): ~~A method according to claim 1, A position detecting~~
method of detecting a position of a mark formed on an object, said method comprising steps of:

forming an image of the mark on a sensor;

performing a first process that processes an image signal obtained by the sensor
with respect to each of a plurality of values of a parameter of the first process;

performing a second process that processes a signal obtained by the first process
to obtain a feature value with respect to each of the plurality of values of the parameter;

determining a value of the parameter based on feature values obtained by the
second process and a reference value defined with respect to the mark; and

detecting a position of the mark based on a signal obtained by the first process
using the value of the parameter determined in said determining step.

wherein the first process comprises a process for removing a noise in the image
signal.

10-12 (CANCELLED):